

IN OUR BACKYARD



AN UPDATE FROM THE ALBERTA SPECIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

Fall 1993 Vol. 4 No. 4

Construction of Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre Mechanically Complete

November 1993 marked completion of construction of the expansion at the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre near Swan Hills. *In Our Backyard* talked with Vice-President of Operations and Business Development, Mark Polet, about the project.

What is the present status of the expansion?

I'm delighted to say that the large kiln is mechanically complete and is currently undergoing the check-out phase by the operator, Chem-Security (Alberta) Ltd. The check-out is proceeding well, and we are hoping for Alberta Environmental

continued on next page . . .

Season's Greetings!



■ This year's winning entry by Justine Scott, Edmonton

"Joy to the World" Christmas Card Contest

For the third year the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation (ASWMC) was delighted with the response to their "Joy to the World" Christmas card contest. Pupils ranging in age from 6 to 12 years sent a total of 674 entries from 38 schools and eight community-based associations – a great response! The theme of this year's

card was "Reduce and Re-use", and the winning entry was printed as the Corporation's 1993 Christmas card. The panel of judges enjoyed their task, but choosing a single "best" wasn't easy. In the end they chose a winner, and awarded four honorable mentions and one special mention.

The winner, Justine Scott (10 years old), is a Grade 5 student at Sakaw School in Edmonton. She will

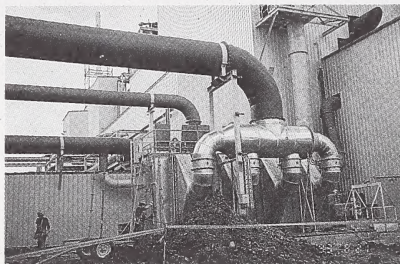
receive a \$100 gift certificate from a local bookstore for her school library, as well as her original artwork framed for hanging and 50 printed Christmas cards of her artwork. Honorable mentions went to Aaron Forster (Sedgewick), Kristine Cormier (Edmonton), Jocelyn Lee (Wetaskiwin) and Danny Busse (Edmonton), with a special mention to Barbara Smith (Drumheller).

Keep up the good work! ♦

Produced quarterly by the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation, "In Our Backyard" is intended to keep Albertans updated on issues and solutions in hazardous waste management. You can contribute to the process by "recycling" this newsletter. Pass it on to a friend with your comments. Should you have any suggestions you wish to share, pass them on to us. Our address, phone and fax number are on page 4.



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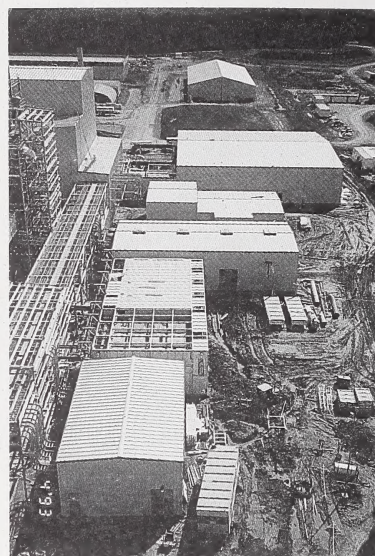
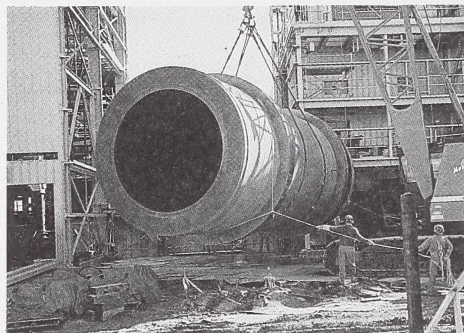


above

An activated carbon filter is used to minimize fugitive emissions

right

The new kiln during installation



Protection approval to start sending non-hazardous waste through the incinerator by December 15.

The project was completed not only on budget, but approximately six weeks ahead of the anticipated completion date.

We are also pleased that this project has one of the best safety records ever in Alberta. There were only two lost-time accidents in over 300,000 man hours of construction. Of course, we're always trying to achieve zero accidents but, nevertheless, we're very proud of this record, which is much better than the industry average.

Considering the waste minimization practices industry has been introducing, why choose this size and type of kiln for the expansion? This kiln is the only one of its size and kind in Canada, and is capable of taking the widest variety of waste. It is similar to kilns in use in the United States and Europe, which have been operating with good track records. With a capacity of 40,000 tonnes per year, the kiln was built anticipating a significant volume of waste from Alberta, but a combination of regulatory and infrastructural changes, effective waste minimization by industry and the recession means that more of its capacity is available to an expanded market area. We are therefore actively seek-

ing out those markets and seeking public input and policy changes.

Why was this particular technology chosen?

The technology combines the well-understood method of treatment of a rotary kiln with state-of-the-art feed systems and pollution control systems. The variety of feeding methods allows for a wider physical range of wastes than was possible with previous units. Other kilns were limited in the variety of wastes they could accept, but the new kiln can accept solids, liquids and sludges in bulk form and in a wide variety of packaging, which means we can provide a far more efficient service. In addition, the new system is better for the employees on site, as wastes are now mechanically handled to reduce exposure.

How much has the expansion cost?

The total cost of the kiln, including all construction costs, commissioning costs, etc. is \$85 million.

How large is the backlog of material waiting for disposal?

There is a six-month backlog which has already been contracted for disposal. There is also a large amount of material being stored by the waste generators themselves. Due to the sluggish economy, however, these materials will likely not be received for treatment in the immediate future. ♦

NRCB Hearings on Expanding the Market Area for the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre

On November 18, the Alberta Government announced that the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) would conduct a public review of the importation of hazardous waste into Alberta for treatment at the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre. Environmental Protection Minister Brian Evans said that: "The review will fulfil the promise made to Albertans regarding public consultation on importing hazardous waste from other provinces and jurisdictions."

Special waste from the Northwest Territories already approved for shipment, and the PCB and PCP material required for the compliance test burn of the recently completed incinerator at the Treatment Centre, will not be affected by the review. The method of obtaining public input into the review will be determined by the NRCB in the near future. ♦

"Going Green Doesn't Have to Mean Going in the Red"

A joint project between Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation and Alberta Environmental Protection has resulted in the development of a series of waste minimization fact sheets for use by small businesses. The first, "Waste Minimization in the Workplace", gives general information on basic cost and waste reduction. The rest of the series consists of sheets specific to businesses in certain industries.

Each sheet contains an introductory section giving background on the types of wastes generated by that particular industry. Suggestions are then given on how to minimize waste through reducing, reusing and recycling.

Fact sheets have been produced for the following:

1. Analytical laboratories
2. Automotive dismantling industry
3. Dentists, dental specialists and denturists
4. Finish carpentry
5. Golf courses
6. Grocery stores
7. Hair and beauty salons/ Barber shops
8. Hotels and motels
9. Janitorial service and supply industry
10. Lawn and garden services
11. Machine and welding shops
12. Maintenance yards
13. Offices and institutions
14. Oil and gas field services
15. Painting, decorating and supply industry
16. Petroleum product wholesalers
17. Photographic developing
18. Plumbing and heating industry
19. Printing
20. Resilient flooring and carpeting
21. Restaurants
22. Roof shingling
23. Unlicensed restaurants, drive-ins and take-out food services
24. Vehicle maintenance and repair industry
25. Waste minimization in the workplace

For more information on this program, or to receive fact sheets, call Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation at 1-800-272-8873 or (in Edmonton) 422-5029. ♦

The Alberta Solution – An International Perspective

In April 1992, a marketing division was established by the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation. The division is generating revenue as a result of a number of consulting contracts.

Visitors from countries all over the world have visited Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation and the Treatment Centre near Swan Hills, drawn by the structure, technology and expertise incorporated into the Alberta Special Waste Management System.

So far, the Corporation has provided consultation on projects in Hong Kong, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, China, Barbados and the USA, among others. Slowly but surely the list is growing. In Asia, Europe and

South America clean up systems are being established, as are plans to build treatment plants. The Corporation will continue to provide the expertise for which it has become known around the world.

Beginning in the next issue of *In Our Backyard* we will be giving brief descriptions of a number of the international projects with which the Corporation has been involved. ♦

Facilities Agreement

By the end of October 1993, Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation and eight hazardous waste management companies had finalized agreements to establish transfer stations and related hazardous waste management facilities in Alberta. The operations of the private sector companies involved

meet the high standards set by the ASWMC in the handling of special waste, thereby helping to promote environmental awareness in their host communities.

The Corporation's private sector partners in this venture are DBS Environmental (Lethbridge), CEDA-REACTOR Ltd. (Edmonton), Custom Environmental Services Ltd. (Edmonton), Smithbrook Management Systems Inc. (Brooks), UMATAC Industrial Processes (Calgary), Wearmouth Waste-Tech (Calgary), Laidlaw Environmental Services (Ryley) and Chem-Security (Alberta) Ltd. (Calgary).

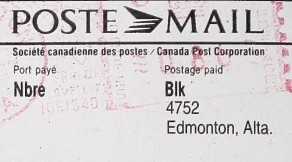
The Corporation promotes the involvement of private industry in meeting the hazardous waste management needs of the province in areas such as transportation, storage, recycling, laboratory analysis, personnel training and waste minimization. ♦

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Alberta-wide Fridge Round Up

On September 1, TransAlta Utilities kicked off a province-wide Round Up throughout the TransAlta service area. This followed a pilot project in Lethbridge and collections in Calgary. The province-wide program ran until the end of November, with Edmonton and Red Deer being collection centres for the southern and northern regions, respectively. In Edmonton the program was a Power Smart initiative offered by Edmonton Power and TransAlta Utilities.

As of October 27, a total of 700 units had been booked for collection in the Red Deer region and 3,955 in the Edmonton region. Original pick up estimates for Edmonton Power customers had ranged from 3,800 to 4,200 units.

Similar collection programs have been run in other provinces, from Nova Scotia and Ontario to British Columbia. ♦

Alternatives

Make the winter safer for children and pets

Did you know that the antifreeze in your car can kill? Regular antifreeze is made with ethylene glycol, a highly toxic substance. The sweetness of the substance makes it attractive to cats, dogs and children, which makes it even deadlier. Even a small spill can be deadly.

Beginning this winter, however, you can be environmentally conscious by reducing use of a toxic substance, and at the same time create a safer environment right in your own neighborhood.

Amsoil, a wholesale distributor, is introducing an antifreeze with a propylene glycol base. This substance is an environmentally-sound alternative to ethylene glycol. This new antifreeze is biodegradable, recyclable and essentially non-toxic, and as a bonus it is even kind to your car, protecting against pitting, rusting and corrosion. ♦

☎ Call direct

- ♦ For information on hazardous waste management programs in Alberta
 - Toxic Round Ups
 - Community Study Groups
 - Waste Minimization
 - ♦ To report an environmental emergency or to register a complaint
 - ♦ For information on recycling newspapers, metals, plastics, clothing
 - ♦ For information on the transportation of dangerous goods
- Pollution Control Division/Alberta Environmental Protection**
1-800-222-6514
- Recycling Branch/Alberta Environmental Protection**
427-5838 (Edmonton)
297-5925/8255 (Calgary)
- Alberta Public Safety Services**
1-800-272-9600
(24 hours)



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